Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 307332
ORIGIN NODS-00

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APPROVED BY S/S-0:TGMARTIN
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O 242209Z DEC 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 307332

NODIS
WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL RPT AMMAN 9619 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 24 DEC 77

QUOTE: S E C R E T AMMAN 9619

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PGOV,JO, EG, IS, XF
SUBJECT: HUSSEIN AND THE SADAT-BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 306913

1. I SAW KING EARLY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 24 AND SENT OVER WITH HIM YOUR MESSAGE REFTEL.

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2. BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION I TOLD HIM THAT WE TOO WERE INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT ON JORDAN'S ROLE. OBVIOUSLY THE TALKS BETWEEN SADAT AND BEGIN'S WOULD HAVE A VERY GREAT SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS PROCESS. I ALSO TOLD HIM ABOUT OUR APPRECIATION FOR HIS CONTINUING ROLE IN THE REGION.

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3. I THEN SAID I WANTED HIM TO HAVE OUR OWN THOUGHTS DIRECTLY AND READ TO HIM PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 OF REFTEL.

4. OBVIOUSLY HE HAD BEEN THINKING MUCH ALONG THE SAME LINES HIMSELF. HE NOTED HE WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH US AS SADAT'S EFFORTS PROCEED.

5. HE THEN TOLD ME HE HAD JUST FINISHED A MEETING WITH HIS SENIOR ADVISORS. THEY HAD BEEN DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT OF THE SADAT-BEGIN MEETINGS. THESE HAD TURNED TO THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE AREA OF SADAT'S FAILURE. HUSSEIN, WITHOUT QUANTIFYING THE RESULTS, TOLD ME HE WAS OBVIOUSLY GREATLY DISTRESSED AT THIS PROSPECT.

6. TO COUNTERBALANCE THE OBVIOUS WAVE OF DISMAY WHICH SEEMED TO BE CREEPING OVER HUSSEIN AND THE CONVERSATION, I TOLD HIM THAT WE WERE CLEARLY LOOKING TO TOMORROW AND INDEED THE WEEKS AHEAD IN TERMS OF BEING THE BEGINNING OF THE BEGINNING OF A REAL NEGOTIATION. WE HOPED HE WOULD LOOK AT IT THE SAME WAY AND NOT SET ARTIFICAL OR IMPRACTICAL DEADLINES OR EXPECTATIONS FOR FAILURE OR SUCCESS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT COMPLETELY BUT DID NOT THINK THAT THE ARAB WORLD WOULD ALLOW SADAT AND BEGIN TOO MUCH ADDITIONAL TIME. HE IS CLEARLY STILL UNDER THE
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INFLUENCE OF THE REPORT CARRIED IN AMMAN 9575 ABOUT SADAT'S "ALL OR NOTHING" APPROACH--TO SUCCEED OR TO FAIL AND RESIGN.

7. I ALSO TOLD HUSSEIN THAT IT WAS CLEAR FROM YOUR MESSAGE THAT WE WERE IN CONTINUING TOUCH WITH BEGIN ABOUT THE MEETING. I ALSO TOLD HIM IT WAS MY IMPRESSION FROM THE REPORTING WHICH WE HAD SEEN THAT BEGIN'S SENIOR ADVISOR, INCLUDING DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN, WHO HAD JUST TALKED TO SADAT, WERE ALSO IMPRESSED WITH THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY AND A SERIOUS APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM.

8. WE HOPE TO CONTRIBUTE SOME IDEAS SHORTLY ON SOME OF THE BASIC ASSUMPTIONS AND QUESTIONS WHICH WILL GOVERN KING'S ATTITUDE ON HIS FUTURE ROLE WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE TELEGRAMS.

9. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO CAIRO FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS AND ROY ATHERTON, AND TO TEL AVIV AND DAMASCUS. PICKERING UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS
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Sent Date: 24-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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To: CAIRO TEL AVIV MULTIPLE
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